

Mountaineer

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Aug. 31, 2006

Iraqis to take control of army, air force, navy

by Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Iraqi government is slated to assume control of its soldiers, sailors and airmen sometime next month, a senior U.S. military officer told reporters in Baghdad Aug. 28.

The Iraqi Ministry of Defense, through its joint headquarters in Baghdad, will assume operational control of the Iraqi army, as well as the country's air force and navy, in early September, Army Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, spokesman for Multinational Force Iraq, said at a news briefing.

"This is a significant step in the Iraqi path to self-reliance and security," Caldwell said. "What this means is that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is prepared to begin assuming direct operational control over Iraq's armed forces."

Iraq's 3-year-old armed forces have "been rebuilt from the ground up as a modern and effective fighting force," Caldwell said.

Iraqi army divisions have fought alongside coalition forces under the commander of the Multinational Corps Iraq, he added. Coalition forces also have worked to train the new Iraqi army, which now stands at about 115,000 soldiers.

The transition of control of Iraq's armed forces to the Iraqi government should take several months, Caldwell said.

The 10 Iraqi army divisions eventually will come under the direct operational control of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, commander in chief of Iraq's armed forces, Caldwell said.

"The majority of Iraqi (army) divisions will remain under coalition forces initially," Caldwell explained, "and then be gradually transitioned into the Iraqi ground forces command."



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Parting is such sweet sorrow

Staff Sgt. Anthony Butcher, 60th Ordnance Company, hugs his niece, MacKenzie Ward, 2, after the deployment ceremony for the 60th Ordnance Company Aug. 29. Company Commander, Capt. Martin Wennblom, said the unit's mission will be providing ammunition support for Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Not only do we provide support for the Army but also to the Navy, Air Force and the Marine Corps. In this company, we have veterans from previous OIF deployments, and some of the Soldiers are on their third year-long tour since March 2003."

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MUST SEE



Party with the ponies.

See Pages 20-21.

Army to begin utility billing in housing

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Some families living in privatized housing on Army installations will become responsible for their utility consumption starting Friday.

Residential Communities Initiatives will begin billing for electricity at five installations where a yearlong mock billing program was recently completed. The mock billing program established a baseline for electricity consumption through consumption patterns, housing type and size.

Residents who use less energy than what was established by their baseline will earn a rebate or credit. Those who exceed their baseline will be required to pay the difference. Residents should see their first bill on or around Oct. 1, 2006.

The installations where billing will begin are: Fort Carson; Fort Hood,

Texas; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and Fort Campbell, Ky.

Only those residents living in new and fully renovated houses will receive energy bills.

"These homes feature Energy Star appliances, as well as additional insulation and energy-saving windows," said Ivan Bolden, RCI Assistant for Policy and Program manager. "Energy Star is the housing industry's highest energy-saving rating."

"The majority of old homes are not individually metered so it would be difficult to gauge energy consumption," he said. "But once they are fully renovated, they will be included in the billing program."

Congress passed the Military Housing Privatization Initiative in 1996, allowing the services to privatize family housing. Guidance published by the Office of the Secretary of Defense

Take precautions, be responsible this holiday

**Commentary by Maj. Gen.
Robert W. Mixon Jr.**

*Training Support Division West and
Fort Carson commanding general*

Labor Day is traditionally celebrated as the last holiday of the summer season. It has proven to be one of the most dangerous weekends of the entire year because of an increase in accidental deaths and injuries resulting from outdoor recreational activities and travel.

The major cause of death and injuries has been motor vehicle

accidents. The increase in holiday traffic and highway congestion will significantly add to the risk of being involved in an automobile accident. Alertness, defensive driving and seat belt use are some of the ways to reduce the risk. Plan trips to allow time for rest stops; fatigued driving dulls alertness and makes drivers vulnerable to accidents.

Another area of concern is recreational water sports accidents. Continued warm weather makes water activities a favorite for many individuals during this holiday period.

Commanders and supervisors will ensure all Soldiers and civilian employees are given pre-holiday safety briefings that cover potential hazards, while focusing on these two areas.

It is imperative that we start this long holiday weekend with heightened safety awareness. By continued positive leadership and the application of composite risk management at every level, we will develop and reinforce an attitude of "full-time" safety consciousness in all individuals of the Mountain Post community. Let's have an enjoyable, fun and safe Labor Day.



Mixon

Lines on road more than mere decorations

**Commentary by
Douglas M. Rule**

Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

While on a business trip to a foreign country, our host took us downtown to the busy capitol city. There on the widest street in town, which had four lanes going each way, traffic was instead six-eight vehicles going each way. When we commented on it, our host jokingly stated that in his country, people assume that the lines on the road are just another pretty decoration.

Unfortunately, here at Fort Carson and in Colorado Springs, it appears that a lot of people think the same thing. But disregarding the lines on the road can be a serious matter.

Too many times I have been illegally passed by vehicles following me out of Fort Carson as I go up the B Street ramp to Academy Boulevard. Crossing a solid white line is not only illegal, but can cause an accident, especially if the person in front assumes that the people in the rear are obeying the law. It actually takes some time for certain vehicles to get up to speed on the ramp and sometimes one

has to wait for another car to clear the left lane in order to get over. Passing illegally is just plain dangerous and rude. This ramp is not the best designed access either, as many people have to get over a lane or two at the top and likewise people in the left lane on the top, including Metro buses, try to get over to turn into Pikes Peak Community College before they've cleared their white line. Once the white line becomes a broken one, you can change lanes when it is safe to do so.

Also, I've noticed a lack of regard for the marked crosswalks on Fort Carson. Fort Carson Regulation 190-5 requires all vehicles to yield the right of way to persons approaching or crossing the streets in a marked crosswalk. Crossing Specker Avenue can be hazardous to one's health — I could count on both hands the number of times I have almost been hit trying to cross this street by both military and civilian vehicles.

This is especially hazardous during the lunch hour, when many Soldiers are trying to get to Wolf Dining Facility. I try to be a good driver and let folks cross, but I also

notice that a lot of pedestrians are hesitant to cross even when car drivers give them the appropriate right of way.

But, on the other hand, there is a responsibility for the pedestrians as well. There have been times that people are crossing the street, traffic is stopped, and a group has decided that the middle of the road is a good place for a meeting.

There is also the problem of jaywalking. Although this is not as busy a place as New York City where jaywalking would almost ensure an injury, jaywalking on Fort Carson is equally as hazardous as drivers failing to yield the right of way. I have watched more than my fair share of Soldiers and civilians ignore crosswalks 10 feet away in favor of cutting across streets to save 10 seconds on their walk. The same regulation stipulates that any pedestrian crossing a roadway at any other point than within a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection will yield the right of way to vehicles on the roadway.

My 14-year-old daughter makes stupid comments like, "Well, if they hit me, I'll sue them," to which I reply, "You can't sue anybody if you are dead." Of course, these jaywalkers may be thinking the same thing as my daughter. One would hope that they know better than this. Also, some approach crosswalks at a run, failing to give drivers ample opportunity to yield the right of way, which is

likewise a violation of the regulation. You are not allowed to just run out in front of a vehicle and expect them to stop without ample warning.

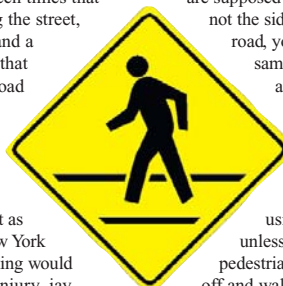
As for bicyclists: in Colorado, you are supposed to travel on the road, not the sidewalk. Being on the road, you are subject to the same rules and regulations as cars and motorcycles.

You cannot ride your bicycle on the wrong side of the road. You cannot run a red light by using the crosswalk lights unless you are acting as a pedestrian, which means you get off and walk your bicycle across the road and continue walking.

So here are some things to remember:

1. If you are a driver, respect others: don't illegally cross solid white or yellow lines.
2. If you are a driver, respect pedestrians.
3. If you are a driver, respect bicyclists and give them the same respect you would show another car or motorcycle.
4. If you are a pedestrian, respect motor vehicles: cross legally, cross safely.
5. If you are a bicyclist, respect the laws of the road.
6. If you are not sure about the laws of the road, you can download the complete Colorado driver's manual at www.revenue.state.co.us/mv_dir/wrap.asp?incl=handbooks.

If we all show respect for others, Fort Carson will be a safer place.



MOUNTAINEER

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NEWS

Army reaches milestone in FCS modernization program

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army moved closer to transforming itself into a more relevant, capable and ready 21st-century force Aug. 11 when officials completed the In-Process Preliminary Design Review of its principal modernization effort, the Future Combat Systems program.

The IPDR is the latest in a series of program milestones that confirms FCS modernization meets the Army's cost projections, time schedule and performance expectations. With requirements and functionality for all 18 FCS systems defined, hardware and software can now be designed and tested.

"IPDR represents the transition from requirements to design, build, integrate and test," said Maj. Gen. Charles Cartwright, FCS program manager. "Within a year, FCS capabilities will begin to be integrated into the current force through our Evaluation Brigade Combat Team.

"The EBCT will provide a structure that will allow us to test, validate and then deliver to our Soldiers new capabilities that are specifically designed to address 21st century threats. Our Army and our troops require these new FCS capabilities sooner rather than later."

FCS modernization will now focus on delivering Spin-Out 1 capabilities to the EBCT, which will be

stood up early next year at Fort Bliss, Texas, to evaluate, test and refine Intelligent Munitions Systems, Unattended Ground Sensors, the Non-Line of Sight Launch System and an early version of the FCS Networked Battle Command.

Both the FCS spin-outs and the EBCT are part and parcel of a concerted Army effort to deliver crucial new capabilities to the current force as soon as possible. Spin-outs of FCS technologies to the EBCT will begin in 2008 and continue every two years thereafter.

FCS is a cornerstone of a more comprehensive Army modernization effort that also includes developing a more modular or versatile force, with greater joint and expeditionary capabilities. Toward that end, FCS includes a suite of 18 manned and unmanned systems, air and ground vehicles, all interconnected by a modern network to give Soldiers unprecedented situational awareness and new capabilities to address 21st-century threats.

The 18 systems include Manned Ground Vehicles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Unmanned Ground Vehicles, and such spin-out technologies as the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, Intelligent Munitions Systems and Unattended Ground Sensors.

During the IPDR, each system team provided a detailed technical work plan for the next two years. The IPDR also included a review of all layers of the

FCS Network, embedded training, modeling and simulation, logistics and supportability functions, and complementary programs.

The IPDR also demonstrated the maturity of the overall FCS baseline design concept. The review found that critical FCS technologies are maturing on schedule; program risks are well understood; and these risks are being actively — and successfully — managed.

FCS is the Army's first modernization effort in almost four decades. Program costs have remained steady and constant: \$120 billion (fiscal 2003 constant dollars) for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation plus procurement in the next two decades.

FCS modernization costs increased in 2004 when the Army increased the program's size and scope to speed the delivery of more modern capabilities to frontline troops.

The concurrent procurement of 18 systems in tandem has reduced system development and demonstration costs by an estimated \$12 billion, while shrinking the development-to-field timeline by about 30 percent.

"Army modernization is saving taxpayers time and money, while giving our Soldiers lifesaving, state-of-the-art capabilities sooner rather than later. This makes FCS the Army's most critical investment requirement," said Cartwright.

Billing

From Page 1

in 1998 required service-members in privatized housing to be responsible for the utilities they consumed.

The billing program was established by the Department of Defense to conserve energy and track energy usage. Eventually all military branches will require residents living in privatized housing to be responsible for their energy use.

Under the RCI program, more than 72,000 family housing units at 33 Army installations have been turned over to private developers. The companies manage the housing and collect rent through Soldiers' Basic Allowance

for Housing. In return, the companies provide property management services, renovate existing homes and build new housing.

Dollars saved through conservation will mean more money for construction of new homes and community facilities at the installation; the savings will stay local.

"It's all about providing quality housing for the Soldiers and their families and using our nation's energy wisely," Bolden said.

Editor's note: Read the Sept. 8 edition of the *Mountaineer* for coverage of the Aug. 29 town hall meeting where Mountain Post residents had the opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns over utility billing.

Deadline approaching for filing body armor claims

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Soldiers have until Oct. 3 to file reimbursement claims for private purchases of such protective and safety equipment as body armor.

"A provision of the 2005 Defense Authorization Act allows for the reimbursement if service members weren't issued equivalent equipment prior to deployment in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom," said Maj. Paul Cucuzzella, U.S. Army Claims Service.

The Army began reimbursing Soldiers in November for private purchases of protective body armor, combat helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems, summer weight gloves and knee and elbow pads, Cucuzzella said.

Such purchases qualify for reimbursement

if they were made between Sept. 11, 2001, and April 1, 2006, and if they were made in anticipation of or during the service-member's deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Claims should be filed with the Soldier's current unit. Former Soldiers should mail their claims to the U.S. Army Claims Service at Fort Meade, Md., with a postmark date of Oct. 3.

More information on the reimbursement program — including qualifying details, instructions on how and where to file a claim, and a copy of the requisite claims form — is available at www.jagcnet.army.mil. Follow the link to the "Protective Gear Reimbursement Program."

Soldiers also may contact Maj. Paul Cucuzzella at (301) 677-7009, ext. 431, or by e-mail at: paul.cucuzzella@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil.

MILITARY

Unit earns moniker, 'Fore Runner,' for its dedication to Soldiers on the front lines

Story and photo by Pfc. Paul J. Harris

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team

BAQUBAH, Iraq — As the sun crept up over Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Soldiers scurried about, making sure straps were properly tied down to trucks and pre-mission checks on their vehicles were conducted; all had to be done before they could depart the FOB to deliver much-needed supplies to Soldiers at outlying areas.

This is a daily routine for the Soldiers of Company F, 64th Brigade Support Battalion attached to 1-68th Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. The unit's frequent trips off the FOB and to the forefront have earned it the nickname, "Fore Runner Company."

Soldiers of the unit are always at the forefront supporting the troops, similar to the tip of a spear, explained 1st Sgt. Michael Young, the company's first sergeant.

However, before being deployed to Iraq in November 2005, and earning its moniker, the company went through a period of adjustments.

First, Company F is attached to a support battalion, which means female Soldiers are allowed

in the unit. The addition of female Soldiers has made it easier to fill the company's ranks and has improved camaraderie — a surprising revelation to Young, who had never worked with female Soldiers so closely before.

"It has changed my attitude, and I have sisters in the Army," Young said. "There is no difference; they are just as hard-core as the guys. It's a good thing."

The second adjustment was training all the new Soldiers he received. Sixty percent of the company was fresh out of Advanced Individual Training. The solution was to have the company constantly train on tactics and procedures at Fort Carson and continue that training every day while they were here in Iraq.

"Every time we roll out, we give a safety brief and go over what to do if we make contact with the enemy," said Sgt. James Rose, fuel handler.

Intense preparation has worked in the Fore



Pfc. Brian Murry, fueler, Company F, 1-68th Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, brings in the hose after transferring fuel to the tanks on Forward Operating Base Gabe near Baqubah, Iraq.

Runner's favor. While the company has had its fair share of scrapes with roadside bombs, the training

Military briefs

Miscellaneous

ASE exams — Automotive Service Excellence exams will be administered Nov. 9, 14 and 16 at the Mountain Post Training and Education Center. Funded exams are available for service members who are currently in an automotive technology degree program or have an eligible military occupational specialty in the automotive/mechanical service specialties. Soldiers interested in taking the exams must register prior to Sept. 18. Contact a guidance counselor in bldg 1117 for more information.

MOAA special presentation — The Military Officers Association of America, Pikes Peak Chapter, invites all active and retired officers to a special presentation by Ambassador Roger G. Harrison Sept. 7 at Peterson Air Force Base Officers' Club. A social begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Lunch is \$12 per person with a choice of baked pork chop or blackened chicken salad.

Reservation with a check payable to PPC/MOAA must be made by Friday to Karin Manning, 2011 Pine Mesa Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80918-3655.

OSJA closure — The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will be closed for organizational day today.

Ethics training — The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate hosts annual ethics training on the following dates: Sept. 5, 12 and 14 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Training will be held at McMahon Theater. Training is mandatory for Department of the Army civilians and military personnel. Units with more than 100 members can request individual training. Contract personnel are not required to attend. For details call 526-0538 or e-mail Lorraine.Sirois@carson.army.mil.

TSP Pilot — Let the Thrift Savings Plan Pilot take the guesswork out of your TSP fund choice decisions (including the new L funds). TSP Pilot's investment analysts give you optimized fund balance allocations you can plug into your TSP account Web site to maximize returns. A free issue is available. Please allow a few moments for the page to fully load: <http://TSP-pilot.com>.

Environmental Health training — The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine offers heat category monitoring training, food service sanitation training and classes on hot and cold weather injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation and medical threat briefings. For more information on these classes call 526-7922 or 524-2238.

DPW services — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper, and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk at 526-5345. Use this number for emergencies or routine tasks.
- Refuse/trash — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing or emergency service is required.
- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.

- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.

- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243.

- Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.

- Base operations contract COR — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.

- Portable latrines — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

CIF Hours

Regular business hours

The Central Issue Facility has changed its operating hours. The CIF is no longer open to Soldiers on Fridays. Soldiers may make appointments by calling 526-3321. Listed below are the new operating hours.

Inprocessing

Monday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Initial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Cash sales/report of survey

Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Direct exchange

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial turn-ins

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Full turn-ins

Monday-Thursday 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Unit issues and turn-ins

Call 526-5512/6477 for approval.

Hours of operation

Education Center hours of operation — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours are as follows:

- **Counselor Support Center** — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- **Learning Resource Center** — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing** — Monday through Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **Basic Skills Education Program/Functional Academic Skills Training** — Monday through Thursday 1-4 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **eArmyU Testing** — Monday-Friday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

Military Occupational Specialty Library — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Legal Assistance hours — Operating hours for the Legal Assistance Office are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Claims Division hours — The Claims Division office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and closed federal and training holidays.

To make a claim, Soldiers must attend a mandatory briefing, which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the briefing, Soldiers must submit a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R. Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays.

DFAC hours — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

Wolf Inn — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

Butts Army Airfield — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Patton Inn — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

10th SFG — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Briefings

Special Forces briefings — will be held Wednesdays at bldg 1217, room 305, from 10-11 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Soldiers must be E4-E6 from any military occupational specialty; have a general technical score of at least 100; be a U.S. citizen; score 229 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test; and pass a Special Forces physical. Call 524-1461 or visit the Web site at www.bragg.army.mil/sorb.

ACAP briefing — The Army Career and Alumni Program preseparation briefing is required for all departing service members. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP preseparation briefings are held Monday-Friday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m., bldg 1118, room 133. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

ETS briefing — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at bldg 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave. Call 526-2240 for more information.



BOSS meeting — The post BOSS meeting, for BOSS representatives, meets the third Thursday of each month at Xtremes from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call 524-BOSS.

Fore Runners

From Page 5

and constant reinforcement of policy standards have kept Soldiers safe. So far the company has not had a Soldier killed.

One of the policy standards non-commissioned officers have been enforcing is having Soldiers wear the required body armor when going on missions.

With the temperatures in the Diyala Province averaging 120 degrees, Soldiers are tempted to not wear the additional side plates and shoulder protectors.

Sgt. 1st Class Lionel Allamby, Fore Runner's platoon sergeant, said he does not buy the argument that it's too hot out as an excuse for not wearing the proper gear.

"It is real important to wear all of your gear because it is additional armor to protect yourself," Allamby explained.

"If shrapnel was to penetrate a vehicle, the (body) armor is the last line of defense."

With all the challenges Fore Runner has faced, Young said he would not change a thing about his company.

"Because my Soldiers are combat service support instead of combat arms, they have always felt like they have to take that extra step to prove themselves," Young said.

"I have seen the Soldiers mature into highly motivated Soldiers, and I would challenge them against any company in Soldier skills any day."

CAP enables wounded service members stay on active duty

by Christelle Michael

TRICARE Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Wounded service members often wonder while in the recovery process, "Will I remain on active duty?" "Will I be able to find a job?" "How will I support my family?" Thanks to TRICARE Management Activity's Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program and its assistive technology, injured services members have more options than ever.

"Our program gives injured service members hope," said Dinah F. B. Cohen, director of the program. "We have assistive technology available to help them continue on with their military careers or transition into the workforce. Many have stayed on active duty with the help of assistive technology and couldn't do their jobs without it."

CAP provides assistive technology to injured service members who are blind, visually or hearing impaired, or have dexterity, communication or cognitive issues. This technology allows service members to participate in the work force even though they have sustained tremendous injuries during war.

The Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program is hosting a "From Deployment to Employment" Training Forum Aug. 30. This one-day forum will focus on delivering information to front-line Department of Defense service providers who are involved in the recovery, rehabilitation, or transition to independence and employment of wounded service members. For more information on the training forum, visit the Web site at http://tricare.osd.mil/cap/WSM_Forum.cfm.

The two most highly-used assistive technology devices are voice activated desktop software that addresses dexterity impairments and screen magnification software for individuals with partial vision loss.

Originally designed for military pilots, dexterity equipment and voice recognition software now helps injured service members get the job done. The user speaks into a head set, and the word processing system generates computer documents and e-mails. The user easily creates work documents, communicates with other employees and performs research for various projects. Users are able to dictate at a normal pace, switch

between a number of applications, and control the mouse — all by voice.

Service members with partial sight rely on magnification software to enlarge text and graphics two to 36 times its normal size. The program also reads aloud documents, e-mails and Web site text.

Service members interested in assistive technology may call the CAP office at (703) 681-8813 to discuss their specific needs. A CAP staff member will set up an appointment for a needs assessment by phone, at the CAP Technology Evaluation Center located in the Pentagon. For wounded service members outside the Washington, D.C., area, a CAP staff member will contact the state to request a needs assessment to identify the best solutions for each active duty service member. In addition to providing these free accommodations, the program also covers the cost of installation and training for the assistive technology.

The program staff will also provide a follow-up to assure the technology meets the user's needs. For more information on the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program, please visit www.tricare.osd.mil/cap/.

USNORTHCOM hosts work group for pandemic influenza planning

by Chief Petty Officer Susan Hammond
U.S. Northern Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — As more and more birds carry avian influenza to new areas of the globe, planning for a potential global pandemic continues to build at hundreds of federal, state and local agencies.

Pressure is increasing for these agencies to develop comprehensive operations should pandemic flu strike.

How does a multitude of government entities coordinate without wasting or duplicating effort?

At U.S. Northern Command, one method is to host a focused work group with top-level planners. Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Public Health and Emergency Preparedness of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services participated in a Joint Interagency Group Coordination meeting Aug. 23 to help integrate U.S. NORTHCOM's mission into the federal pandemic influenza response plan.

"We've got the right people to roll up their sleeves and advance our collective efforts toward national preparedness," said James Castle, deputy director of U.S. NORTHCOM's Interagency Coordination Directorate.

"It's not just the military's involvement in this," Castle said.

"We partner closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Center for Infectious

Diseases, a subsidiary of the CDC, and a host of others to put together a national plan that supports the whole country."

The creation of a national response plan for pandemic influenza has been prompted by the spread of the H5N1 influenza virus (avian flu) among birds across Asia and Africa and the historical lessons of the flu pandemic of 1918, which is estimated to have killed 20 million people worldwide.

Although avian flu is currently a bird disease that is not easily passed to humans, medical experts fear that if the virus were to mutate and become easily transferable among humans, it could trigger a global flu pandemic, potentially placing the lives of millions of people at risk and affecting all areas of society.

While U.S. NORTHCOM's mission is to deter, prevent and defeat aggression against the United States, its territories and interests, the command is also directed, upon request by the president or secretary of defense, to provide defense support assistance to civil authorities, which places it in the thick of preparedness planning for a pandemic flu.

So how likely is it that all this planning will be needed?

"I don't think anyone really knows when it's going to happen or even what's going to happen," said Capt. Stephen C. Redd, a Navy doctor with the CDC's Center for Infectious Diseases and a leader in the CDC's efforts to prepare for pandemic flu.

"We're all tracking the situation and trying to be aware as quickly as possible if something does happen," Redd said.

"The real reason is to be able to provide that information and to make the right decisions so that the average person will know what the situation is and what to do." Redd traveled from the CDC in Atlanta to participate in USNORTHCOM's interagency work group.

Redd said that according to the CDC's disease intelligence, human-to-human transmission has been likely in only a handful of cases, and such transmission has not been sustained.

Nevertheless, H5N1 is currently the lead candidate for triggering a pandemic.

In the event of a pandemic, triggered first by sustained human-to-human transmission of influenza, the CDC's role would be to get information to decision makers as soon as possible.

According to the National Response Plan, one of the critical decisions to be made will be to activate operational stages of the Emergency Support Function 8 that will trigger public health and medical services including diagnosis, treatment, quarantine and transport of patients in the event of a significant natural or man-made disaster.

Intense planning is still in process.

ESF 8 currently supports surveillance, antiviral and vaccine development and assists state, local and tribal partners in response planning.

"We've made progress, but there are a lot of the gaps that we need to fill in, and we're not going to be able to fill those without cooperation from

Flu

From Page 8

NORTHCOM," said Casey Emmer of DHHS's Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and ESF 8's lead planner for pandemic influenza. "Meetings like (U.S. NORTHCOM's work group) continue to build relationships across the departments and across the offices.

"Flu is a really excellent opportunity to plan for a whole span of missions that we haven't really planned for yet," she said. "The opportunity translates to many other public health and medical emergencies."

Strength is in the teamwork, Castle said.

"It's forums like this that get people talking to each other directly and asking questions that help each organization to make sure that they're synchronized and integrated with the others," Castle said.



Photo by Nel Lampe

Getting ready for deployment

A Directorate of Logistics rough terrain container handler offloads a military container from a 423rd Transportation Company truck at the railhead Monday. Joe Glaston of DOL operates the RTCH while Reservist Sgt. Jeffrey Severe looks on. In an exercise coordinated by Maj. Michelle Clark and Master Sgt. John Ziegler of DOL, a platoon from the Fort Carson Reserve unit was activated to assist the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, in its upcoming deployment.

COMMUNITY

Soldier volunteers with community organization

Story and photo by Nel Lampe

Mountaineer staff

Almost six years ago Sgt. 1st Class Paul J. Salopek arrived at Fort Carson. It wasn't long before a friend talked him into getting involved with a community organization known as S-CAP — Southern Colorado AIDS Project.

Salopek attended a few fundraising events S-CAP held and met some good people.

Since his arrival on post, Salopek spent two tours in Iraq with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. He's been reassigned to the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and is nearing retirement. Always, he kept in touch with S-CAP by e-mail and volunteered when he was back on post.

Usually, Salopek said, when people learn he is a volunteer with S-CAP, they ask "Do you have AIDS?" His answer is "No, I just belong to the organization."

He uses the conversation as an opportunity to inform them about the organization and what it does.

He tells them that S-CAP is a nonprofit organization that helps get food and medication to people with AIDS and helps get them to doctors.

"I'll inform people about the new medicines, which may be effective but are very expensive," Salopek said. "Some of the latest medications may cost as much as \$1,500 a month."

That's why S-CAP has several fundraising events each year, such as an AIDS Walk coming up Sept. 10 in Denver's Cheesman Park. The organization also has a bike ride and a Red Ribbon Ball.

"It's for a good cause, good people," Salopek said.

"I just try to get the word out. If people need help, it's there. It's free, confidential and discreet," he said.

Salopek pointed out that anyone who is concerned about having AIDS can be tested without having to go to a troop medical clinic. The testing conducted by S-CAP is free and noninvasive — the test is oral and does not require a blood sample. Results are available at the end



Bob Rebello, left, S-CAP Director of Public Relations and Education, meets with Phyllis Smith, rear, Sgt. 1st Class Paul J. Salopek and Kari Kwinn at the S-CAP center Monday.

of the appointment. Anyone needing an AIDS test can call 578-9092 for an appointment. People wanting a test should expect to spend an hour and be drug and alcohol free.

According to the S-CAP Web site:

- AIDS was first identified in 1981; 159 people died with the disease that year.

- 1982: The Center for Disease Control formally establishes the term "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" and identifies four risk factors associated with AIDS: male homosexuality, intravenous drug abuse, Haitian origin and hemophilia A.

- 1983: The CDC adds female sexual partners of men with AIDS as the fifth risk group Human Immunodeficiency Virus is identified as the cause of AIDS.

- 1985: The Food and Drug Administration approves the first HIV antibody test. HIV screening of blood donations begin in U.S.

- 1987: The FDA approves the first antiretroviral medication, zidovudine as an AIDS treatment.

- In 1992, AIDS became the leading cause of death among men between 25 and 44; 200,391 people died with AIDS that year.

- 1994: AIDS becomes the number one cause of death for all Americans between the ages of 25-44.

- 1996: The FDA approves the viral load test, which measures the amount of HIV in blood.

- 1997: AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. declines by more than 40 percent compared to 1996 rates, largely as a result of antiretroviral therapies. This year, 403,206 people died of AIDS.

- 1999: One-third of new infections in the U.S. occur in women.

- In 2002, the CDC estimated that 25 percent of people in the U.S. who have HIV are unaware of their infection. There were more than half a million AIDS deaths in the U.S. that year.

- In 2005, 20 million people died of AIDS worldwide.

Test your knowledge, take this quiz provided by S-CAP www.s-cap.org.

Take the HIV/AIDS QUIZ

**Test your knowledge ...
How Much Do You Know About
HIV/AIDS?**

- Young people under 25 represent what percentage of all new HIV infections in the U.S.?
 - 15 percent
 - 25 percent
 - 40 percent
 - 50 percent
- T or F: AIDS is an incurable disease spread mainly by unprotected sex or by sharing needles with someone who has the virus called HIV.
- T or F: Young Americans between the ages of 13 and 25 are contracting HIV at the rate of two per hour.
- HIV is not present in:
 - semen and vaginal secretions
 - the air that you breathe
 - blood
 - breast milk
- You can become infected with HIV by ...
 - sharing utensils or drinking glasses with someone with HIV
 - using the same toilet seat as an HIV- positive person
 - hugging someone with HIV
 - being bitten by a mosquito
 - none of the above
- Which does not help to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV?
 - using a latex condom or female condom
 - using the "pill," diaphragm or other birth control methods
 - abstinence
 - all of the above help to reduce transmission
- If you are infected with HIV, you might show symptoms ...
 - within a few months
 - within a year
 - in 10 or more years
 - any of the above
- T or F: New HIV/AIDS drug treatments have lowered the number of AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. and enabled people with HIV to live longer.
- T or F: There are medicines for HIV-positive pregnant women that can greatly decrease the chances of transmitting HIV to their babies.
- T or F: Only drug users and gay men need to worry about becoming infected.

ANSWER: 1.D; 2.T; 3.T; 4.B; 5.E; 6.B; 7.D; 8.T; 9.T; 10.F

Community briefs

Miscellaneous

FCOSC annual garden party membership drive — The Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Club hosts its annual garden party membership drive Sept. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1 St. Lo Drive. Stop by for more information about the club, special interest groups and community information. Strollers are welcome. Membership dues are \$25 per year. For more information call Rosemary Kerns at 390-7577 or Stephanie Sharp at 559-5176.

2nd BCT, 4th ID Soldiers and families — A town hall meeting for Soldiers and families of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (forward), will be held at McMahon Theater Sept. 13 from 7-9 p.m. Discussions will include the future of the unit at Fort Carson, services available on the Mountain Post and a chaplain's introduction. Speakers will be followed by a question and answer session.

Road closures — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed starting Friday until April. Questions about the closure or disruption of traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan at 526-9267, or Fort Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson at 526-4974.

ADD/ADHD Elementary Group — A support group for those with children with Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder will meet beginning Sept. 14 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Family University, bldg 1161. The program is offered by Evans Army Community Hospital, Social Work Service. Register by calling 526-4585.

Jewish High Holy Days — Temple Shalom, 1523 E. Monument St., Colorado Springs, will provide active-duty military members and their families with free tickets to Jewish High Holy Day events. For a complete list of events visit the Web site at www.templeshalom.com, e-mail tshalom@qwest.net or call 634-5311. Tickets must be picked up by noon, Sept. 21.

Vehicle Registration Office closure — The Vehicle Registration Field Office, located near Gate 1, will be closed Saturday-Monday due to the training and federal holiday.

September Volksmarches — On Sept. 16, walk with thousands of Air Force members and families throughout the world as they celebrate USAF Global Volkssport XXVI. The USAF Academy and Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club will sponsor a walk at the Academy's Farish Recreation Area off Rampart Range Road north of Woodland Park. Start from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and enjoy a five or 10 kilometer walk. For directions or more information call Jake Eyermann at (719) 333-2940.

Fort Carson's Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Falcon Wanderers sponsor a walk Sept. 23 at Turkey Creek Ranch Recreation Area. The five or 10 kilometer routes will start between 8 a.m. and noon. Leashed pets and large-wheeled strollers are welcome. The trails on dirt roads and horse trails are rated moderate. For more information call 526-0460 or 667-5662 or visit the Web site at www.angelfire.com/co4/fw.

Nurses' group offers continuing education opportunity — The Non-Practicing and Part-Time Nurses' Association will present a program entitled "Impact of Meth Labs" Wednesday from 7-9:15 p.m. at YMCA Garden Ranch Center, 2380 Montebello Drive West, Colorado Springs. Two continuing education contact hours will be given. For more information call Betty Lou Avinger at 599-7588 or Jean Sanger at 592-9311.

America Supports You Freedom Walk — Each year since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11,

2001, the Department of Defense has organized a commemoration for victims, survivors and their families, and has recognized military men and women who serve the nation.

Locally, Beacon of Hope Outreach Center, a nonprofit organization in Denver, has been asked by the Pentagon to host the Colorado Hope/America Supports You Freedom Walk Sept. 9.

The walk will begin at 10 a.m. at the future site of the Colorado Freedom Memorial at the northeast corner of Alameda Drive and Airport Boulevard. The tribute will begin at about 2 p.m. at the Aurora Municipal Center located at the corner of Alameda Drive and Chambers Road.

Registration is required to participate and must be accomplished by Monday. Visit the Web site at www.bhoc.us/index_Freedom_Walk.htm for more information or to register.

Teen Scene — Evans Army Community Hospital hosts a program for teenage mothers and moms-to-be the second Wednesday of each month in the third floor conference room. For more information call Rhonda Tulensa at 526-7030 or Carissa Sullivan at 526-7090.

AAFES hosts pet show — The Fort Carson Main Post Exchange will host its semi-annual pet show Sept. 9 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information check with the PX.

Mark your calendar — Fort Carson's fifth annual Community Sustainability Conference and Exposition will be held Nov. 8-9. The topic is "Gaining Irreversible Momentum for Regional Sustainability." An ice breaker will be held Nov. 8, and the conference will be held Nov. 9.

For more information visit the Web site at <http://sems.carson.army.mil>. Register for the conference on the Web site beginning in early September.

Prevention of hantavirus urged — The recent death of a man camping in El Paso county is a reminder of the threat hantavirus poses to the region's residents. Hantavirus is a serious viral illness caused when people breathe in the dried urine, feces or saliva of infected deer mice. Deer mice and hantavirus are common in El Paso county. Some steps to avoid coming into contact with the virus include:

- Rodent-proof homes and buildings to keep mice out.
- Eliminate rodent food supplies and hiding places.
- When cleaning rodent-infested structures use special precautions such as airing out rodent-infested buildings or areas at least 30 minutes before cleaning.
- Do not sweep or dry vacuum rodent contaminated surfaces.
- Use a solution of household bleach (one cup per gallon of water) to disinfect area. Wear disposable gloves and mask when cleaning.
- When camping or sleeping outdoors, avoid sleeping near rodent droppings or burrows. Sleep in tents with floors, above ground or on a ground cloth.

For more information visit the Web site at www.elpasocountyhealth.org or call 578-3199.

Hypertension class — Do you have high blood pressure? Do you want to lower your risk of heart disease? A hypertension class is presented every other Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Mountain Post Wellness Center, bldg 1526. To register or for more information call 526-7022. The class is presented by Disease Management and Nutrition Care.

Post Traumatic Stress help — "LZ Calvary" is a small group Bible study and support group for veterans experiencing the effects of post traumatic stress disorder. Join a group of veterans who are experienced in



ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 1526
TEL: (719) 526-4590

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 1526
TEL: (719) 526-4590



An Orientation for Newly Arrived Spouses

"Very informative and useful, great job!"
—Traci Gregerson

"Great food! I felt very cared for and the resources here are unbelievable!"
—Jim Stewart

"Very impressive program!"
—Cathy Jones

"It's an orientation that everyone should take. I would highly recommend it!"
—Alicia Morales

**Thursday,
September 7 & 21**

8:00A.M. to 3:30P.M.

Family Connection, Bldg 1354

Tour of Fort Carson
Welcome Gift for New Arrivals
Various Guest Speakers (Various Speakers - Army Family Team Building (AFTB), Financial Readiness, TRICARE, Employment Readiness, Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy, Child & Youth Services, DMWR, Wellness Center, JPPSO (Transportation), Installation Volunteer Program, Housing Office, Mayoral Program, Education Center, Welcome Center, Family Readiness Group's, Altitude Tips, Colorado Springs Information & much more.

Lunch and Refreshments Provided

Van Tour of Post (Optional)

Opportunity to Meet New Friends

Free childcare (Call (719) 524-0151 for reservations and bring shot record.)

To reserve your spot, call (719) 526-1070.

combat-related problems and who have successfully dealt with the memories and effects of combat as we work through PTSD-related problems through the study of God's word, fellowship and group discussion. Meetings are held Mondays at 10 a.m. at Grace Brethren Church, 2975 Jet Wing Dr. Call Robert P. Schaffer at 390-8096 or 510-6009.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at Veterans Chapel Wednesdays at 6 p.m. For more information call 322-9766.

West Nile Virus precautions — Post residents should eliminate mosquito breeding sites on post by removing standing water in ponds, gutters, flower pots, cans, tires and puddles, as well as garden equipment, toys and pool covers. Water in birdbaths and wading pools should be changed weekly.

Dead birds should be reported to Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management at 526-5141 during duty hours or military police at 526-2333 during nonduty hours.

Plague watch — The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management issued a plague watch July 20 as a result of excessive prairie dog die-off in several colonies near Butts Army Airfield and to the west along Wilderness Road. Until further notice, residents are advised to stay clear of the areas around Butts Army Airfield and Wilderness Road.

Plague is a disease transmitted primarily through the bite of infected fleas. Prairie dogs, wood rats and other species of ground squirrels and chipmunks can carry infected fleas. The fleas also move easily from wild animals to domestic pets. Report dead animal findings to DECAM Pest Control at 526-5141 or the Wildlife Office at 524-5393/5394.

Claims against the estate — Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Reismos Markose, deceased, should contact 1st Lt. Wilson St. Pierre at 526-1316.

Free relationship-building seminar set for Sept. 14

Installation Chaplain's Office

After over eight years of marriage research, we have discovered the single most important factor in creating a vitally successful marriage (relationship) is security. With this one skill, you can have a very satisfying marriage (relationship). Then, we'll give you five additional skills to enhance the quality of security. Security is more important than you can imagine.

Dr. Gary Smalley

"I Promise," a relationship-building seminar given by Dr. Gary Smalley, will be provided free to Department of Defense identification card holders Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Special Events Center.

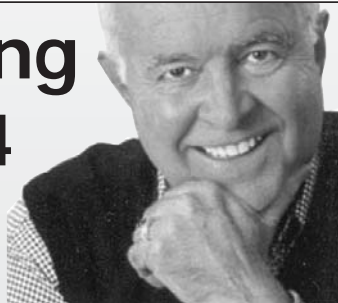
The seminar will explain how five key building blocks determine the destiny of your relationships. The event is open to couples, spouses of deployed Soldiers and singles.

Smalley is the author/co-author of more than 30 best-selling books, popular films and videos. He has spent more than 33 years learning, teaching and counseling on family relationships. Smalley is the founder and chief executive officer of the Smalley Relationship Center which provides conferences nationwide, along with numerous other resources. Smalley has appeared on Oprah Winfrey, Larry King Live, Extra, NBC Today Show, Sally Jessie Raphael and national radio programs across the United States.

The event is sponsored by 1-6th Cavalry, Fort Carson Protestant Women of the Chapel and Fort Carson chaplains.

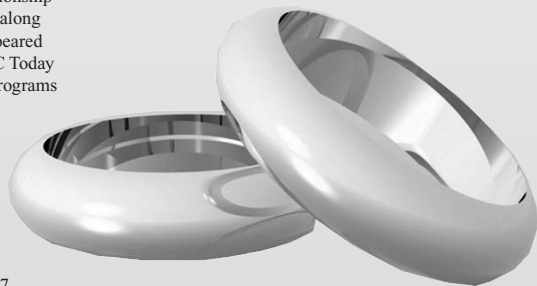
A catered lunch and child care are provided but availability is limited. See your unit chaplain or any Fort Carson chapel to register for the event.

Registration deadline for child care is Sept. 7.



Cancellations must also be received by Sept. 7. For conference information call 526-5890 or e-mail paul.fritts@us.army.mil. For child care information call 524-3230 or e-mail bridget.byernes@us.army.mil.

Information on Smalley and his organization can be found by visiting the Web site at www.dnaofrelationships.com.



Energy prices on the national, post list of concerns

Story and photo by Susan C. Galentine

*Directorate of Environmental
Compliance and Management*

Record summer heat, rising fuel prices, global warming ... energy-related issues are cropping up in the news daily, prompting increasing demands for conservation efforts and research into alternative forms of energy.

Fort Carson has spent about \$14.1 million for electric, natural gas and water use through June of 2006 according to Directorate of Public Works records, which is an increase of \$1.7 million over the same time last year mostly due to increased energy costs, not use. Since 2000, Fort Carson reduced overall natural gas use by about 2.5 percent and decreased its total water use by nearly 45 percent despite an increase of more than 4,000 Soldiers and 1 million square feet of space due to new construction. For the same period, the installation electric use went up by 15 percent due to the increases in population and facilities.

The installation has always pushed energy conservation efforts, but those efforts were stepped up with the formulation Fort Carson sustainability goals in 2002, which included an aggressive goal to reduce energy use from outside sources by 75 percent and increase the use of renewable energy such as solar energy. Energy initiatives are yielding significant results. According to Scott Clark, Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management Pollution Prevention and Energy

Conservation Program coordinator, water and natural gas reductions alone saved the post more than \$5 million in the last five years.

As an example of the commitment to being more sustainable and energy conscious, Fort Carson committed to its second year of a five-year contract to purchase 40,000 megawatt hours per year worth of renewable energy certificates through the Western Area Power Authority. Buying the credits, which accounts for 28 percent of Fort Carson's electrical use, does not mean the installation uses the renewable energy produced. Instead, the purchase gives Fort Carson credit for supporting renewable energy production.

At approximately \$1 per million watt-hours, the 40,000 MWh of certificates purchased annually, equates to approximately 2,450 hours of renewable energy produced or the annual power needs of 3,700 homes.

Several new energy initiatives are under way on post. One project is the construction of a transpired solar collector wall this summer at a motor pool in bldg 8030, which will preheat heating system intake air and reduce natural gas use, said Clark. The project is expected to save an estimated \$25,000-\$35,000 per year in natural gas expenses.

In summer 2005, 93 rain sensors were set up on the automated

irrigation system controllers by the DPW. The rain sensors prevent the irrigation system from turning on when there is adequate rainfall. The low-cost initiative, which required only a \$9,000 investment, saved an estimated 40 million gallons and \$108,000 in water purchases in the first year.

Energy technologies are continually being researched to reduce energy consumption, save money and ultimately sustain the mission of Fort Carson.

For information about home energy conservation, visit the Colorado Springs Utilities Web site at http://www.csu.org/environment/conservation_res/energy/index.html. For more about Fort Carson energy conservation efforts, call the energy program coordinator at 526-1739.



A solar wall used to collect energy for heating is being constructed at a motorpool in bldg 8030.

Certainty for today, reliability for tomorrow

Commentary by Chap. (Maj.)

William "Chip" Nicholas

43rd Area Support Group

"Darkness surrounds us; seeking, we are lost ..." These words open William Wordsworth's poem entitled "Uncertainty." It can be said his words are descriptive of our day and age, too.

News headlines highlight the instability of our world and society. The list of concerns grows daily. You and I can add our personal list of concerns here:

Today's young people are certainly wise in being careful to assume anything as absolute, certain or reliable. But, we would all be foolish to believe there is nothing for certain or reliable.

God's love is always certain, and He is reliable — any time, any place, and in all circumstances. Stress changes do not affect God. Though we know this, we need an occasional reminder.

King David reminds us of God's love and reliability. *"But You (God) are the same, Your years will not come to an end"* (Psalm 102:27).

In the Old Testament, God's people found this to be so true that they would

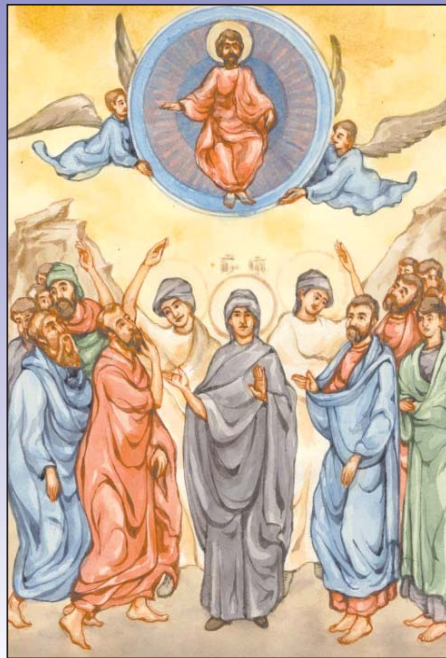
recite out loud *Psalm 136* which repeats 26 times *"His loving-kindness is everlasting."*

In the New Testament, a Jewish-Christian wrote, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"* (Hebrews 1:8). For the Christian this is both a confession and testimony. Unlike people, God doesn't change in character or motive. The Gospel of John reminds us that God's supreme motive for the individual and all of humanity is love, *"For God so loved the world ..."* (John 3:16).

The Apostle James writes to remind us too, *"So, my very dear friends don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle"* (James 1:16-17).

Yes, we can be certain that God loves us, and that we can rely upon Him to always love us. This takes the pressure off anyone who feels he/she must do something so that God would love them. In this surrounding darkness it's possible to seek and find God's love, because in the darkness God has already found us and expresses His love to us (John 1:1-14).

You can be certain today of God's love for you and certain that He is reliable for all your tomorrows.



Chapel

PWOC — Protestant Women of the Chapel invites women of all faith to their fall fellowship kickoff Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Becky Harling, author of "Finding Calm in Life's Chaos" will be the guest speaker, followed by an international food fest. Call 598-0422 or e-mail stylesbas@msn.com or 265-5168 or e-mail Carolyn.Hudson@us.army.mil for details. Free child care is available. Contact Amy West at 393-1390 or e-mail amywest@adelphia.net to make reservations.

Catholic religious education — The Catholic Religious Education process will begin Sept. 10. Registration is ongoing at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Protestant Sunday school — "Where Kids Dare to Live Their Faith" classes for all ages begin Sept. 10. Registration is in progress at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. This year's program is musical, energetic and fast-paced. Two adult Bible studies are also being offered.

AWANA — AWANA teaches children that God is real and that He loves them. AWANA clubs give children clear guidance in a world full of conflicting messages.

The Fort Carson AWANA Club meets Thursday at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel from 5-7 p.m. beginning Sept. 7. Registration for this year's club is taking place through today. Pick up and drop off registration forms at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Adult and teen volunteers are needed to assist the AWANA Club. For more information call Stacy Chapman at 382-3970.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Meeker/526-3711
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Deppmeier/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot. Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Deppmeier/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Zusi/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoan	Veterans'	Titus	Chap. Pies/526-3888

JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

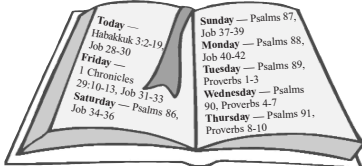
WICCA

Monday	6:30 p.m.	bldg 4800, corner of Harr and O'Connell	Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464
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NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel for traditional prayer and purification. Fasting before the ceremony is recommended and refreshments are offered following the ceremony. Please call the following for information and directions: Michael Dunning 382-5331 or 330-9537, or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929.

Daily Bible readings: To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



The Army Cycle of Prayer — Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers and leaders of the 42nd Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard, headquartered at Troy, N.Y.

Army: For Lt. Gen. James J. Loveless, the G-3, and the military and civilian personnel who work in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

State: For the Soldiers and families from the District of Columbia. Pray also for Mayor Anthony Williams, the members of the Council of the District of

Columbia and local officials in the nation's capital.

Nation: For the American workforce as the nation celebrates Labor Day, the tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of the country.

Religious: For the memory of those killed and for healing and courage for family members, friends and co-workers of those wounded or killed in support of various operations throughout the world.

For more information on the Cycle of Prayer, visit the Web site at www.usarmychaplain.com



The road from Highway 115 ends at the barn area of Turkey Creek Ranch.



A group of riders returns from a trail ride on Turkey Creek Ranch. Trail rides are offered Wednesday-Sunday.

Layout by Jeanne Mazeral

Story and photos by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

Fort Carson's Turkey Creek Ranch is a great place for a quick getaway from the post, to relax, hike or perhaps have a picnic.

Just 10 miles south of Fort Carson's main gate, Turkey Creek Ranch awaits.

The ranch is open Wednesday through Sunday, and is available for horseback rides by reservation. Rides depart at 9 and 10:30 a.m., noon 2 and 4 p.m. A trail guide leads the ride, which is at a walking pace and lasts about an hour. Trail rides are offered Wednesday-Sunday and riders 7 years and older can participate. The military rate (also applies to Department of Defense identification card holders) is \$15 per ride. The fee for guests is \$25 per ride.

Sign up in advance for a steak dinner ride b Friday n every other Friday night. Riders with an appetite for steak can hit the trail at 6 p.m. for a leisurely ride through the hills and meadows of the ranch before arriving at the dinner site where dinner is waiting: steak, baked potato, vegetable, bread and dessert is on the menu. Sign up singly or as a group, but there must be at least six people on the dinner ride; the cost is \$49 per person.

Participants can choose to take a wagon ride to the dinner site, rather than ride by horseback.

If you don't know how to ride horseback, Turkey Creek Ranch is the place to learn; take lessons with certified riding instructors. Riders must be at least 6 years old. The horses, equipment and tack are furnished. Private lessons are \$30 per lesson, and groups of three to four riders pay \$25 per lesson.

Other ranch activities include pony rides for the youngsters, hay-wagon rides and stagecoach rides.

If you want to rough it, Turkey Creek Ranch is the place to do it; tent camping spaces are \$5 per night. The fee for recreational vehicles is \$10 per night. Camping spaces are creek-side. A few supplies and snacks are available at the Mercantile Store.

There's a campers' special Labor Day holiday, which includes a hay-wagon ride and cowboy hats and bandannas for the children. Call 526-3905 for information about the campers' special.

Or, just head to Turkey Creek Ranch for a picnic. Plenty of tables and benches are available, and the children can play at the Western town playground. There are also hiking trails.

Ask about birthday parties, complete with cowboy straw hats and bandannas for the guests.

Turkey Creek Ranch also hosts weddings in the Penrose House. Penrose House is a 1920s Spanish Revival style ranch house, built by Spencer Penrose, owner of the ranch and the Broadmoor Hotel. Weddings can be held in the 936-square foot great room or on the Penrose House porch. Call 526-2705 to book the Penrose House for a wedding, offsite function, reunion, unit activity or social event.

Other upcoming special activities for the Mountain Post community include the "Fall Fest" Sept. 23 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Watch for more details.

Coming up in October, Turkey Creek Ranch hosts a pumpkin patch and harvest hay-wagon rides. Rides to the pumpkin patch are offered Oct. 18-29. People can sign up individually or in groups. There's a charge for the hay-wagon ride but each rider gets a pumpkin to take home. Reservations are recommended.

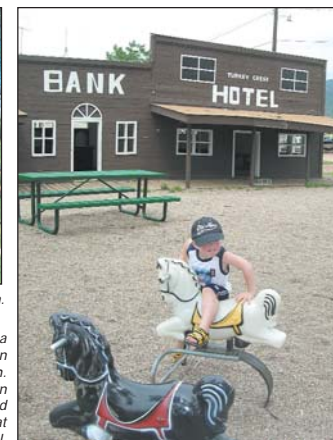
For horseback lessons, birthday parties, steak dinner rides and wagon rides, call 526-3905.



Left: A group plays a game of sand volleyball at one of the courts at Turkey Creek Ranch.



Weddings are held at historic Penrose House at Turkey Creek Ranch.



Right: Dylan Van Horn rides a toy horse at the Western town playground at Turkey Creek Ranch. Dylan's father, 1st Sgt. Marc Van Horn was attending the Army Space and Missile Defense Command picnic at Turkey Creek Ranch's OK Corral.



Left: A bounce house can be set up for unit picnics at Turkey Creek Ranch.



Below: Spc. Ernest Aguero leads his daughter Janie, age 4, on a pony ride at the 59th Military Police Organization Day event at Turkey Creek.

Country star to perform at Aurora Freedom Walk

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Country music star Tammy Cochran has enlisted to perform at the Freedom Walk in Aurora, on Sept. 9, according to event organizers.

Cochran is slated to perform at the Aurora Municipal Center, along with recording artist Allen Asbury, as well as the Kory Brunson Band, North-40 and other artists and groups.

"Tammy Cochran is so generous to come and join us for this special event, and we are happy to have her," said Leo Pacheco, executive director for the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center, which is sponsoring Aurora's Freedom Walk.

Aurora's Freedom Walk also will feature Iraq war veteran Army Staff Sgt. Paul Brondhaver, who suffered almost 300 wounds after his convoy was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade.

"We invited Staff Sergeant Brondhaver to come and speak about what's really going on in Iraq from his perspective, which is really positive and encouraging," Pacheco said. "We also invited, but he hasn't confirmed yet, actor Berry Pepper from 'We Were Soldiers' and 'Saving Private Ryan.'"

The Aurora Freedom Walk is free to participants, but registration is required. People interested in participating can visit the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center's Web site, he said, or call (303) 290-7412. Registration is open until Monday.

Similar Freedom Walks are being held across the nation to remember those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and to honor America's military veterans, past and present. These local events

parallel the Washington, D.C., Freedom Walk, scheduled Sept. 10 and sponsored by the Defense Department's America Supports You program. America Supports You spotlights ways the American people and the nation's corporate sector support U.S. service members.

As of this morning, DoD officials said, 86 communities in 39 states have registered Freedom Walks at DoD's Freedom Walk Web site.

Organizers expect 5,000 people to participate in Aurora's Freedom Walk, slated to begin at 10 a.m. at the future Colorado Freedom Memorial.

Walkers will be serenaded by special musical tributes and will be able to enjoy various food vendors and visit with event sponsors along the route.

"Our sponsors have all very much declared their support for the troops," Pacheco said, noting many businesses are displaying their patriotism by their support of Aurora's Freedom Walk.

"The (Aurora) Freedom Walk has a lot of great potential, and it's going to be a huge event," Pacheco said.

Founded in 1995, the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center is a non-profit organization that provides financial, physical and emotional assistance to disadvantaged families and at-risk youth. Through its Operation Hope program started in 2003, Beacon of Hope has provided care packages, financial aid and other support to more than 10,000 military members and their families.

Information for people interested in organizing Freedom Walk observances in their communities is available at the America Supports You Freedom Walk Web site.

MOAA invites all officers to join

Military Officers Association

The Military Officers Association of America, Pikes Peak Chapter, invites all active, retired, National Guard, Reserve and those military officers who had a commission at one time to join the local chapter.

The Pikes Peak Chapter is an organization devoted to fostering fellowship amongst military officers and their families; and to support various civic and charitable organizations; and the principles on which the nation was founded.

In addition, the chapter is dedicated to maintain a strong defense and to preserve the earned entitlements and benefits of all members of the uniformed services and their families.

The Pikes Peak Chapter is also active with other veterans' organizations to include The Colorado Council of Chapters, The Retired Enlisted Association, Pikes Peak Veterans Council and the United Veterans Council.

For more information or to join, contact A.S. Max Borysko at (303) 647-0405 or James Way at 591-9622.

West Nile virus still a threat as summer draws to close

Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management

Mosquito season is here and so is the ongoing need to take precautions against West Nile virus. Prevention and education remain the best defense against WNV.

The primary means of transmission to people and animals of WNV is through bites from infected mosquitoes.

However, only certain species of mosquitoes carry the virus and very few mosquitoes actually are infected.

In Colorado, WNV is transmitted by a species called culex tarsalis, which feeds in the early morning and early evening. During the day, they rest in shady, secluded areas, and they breed in almost any source of standing water.

Mosquito-borne viruses are maintained in a bird-mosquito-bird cycle. Mosquitoes acquire the virus through feeding on an infected bird with the virus in its blood. The virus is transmitted to a new host via the mosquito's saliva when the insect bites a person or animal. Person-to-person transmission does not occur.

These viruses are prevalent from May to September when mosquitoes are most abundant, but the risk to

humans occurs primarily from August through early September.

Most people who are infected with mosquito-borne viruses do not become ill and have no symptoms. For people who do become ill, the time between the mosquito bite and the first symptoms range from five to 15 days.

There are two different types of WNV diseases for humans.

The first is viral fever syndrome, which includes fever, headache and fatigue that persist for two to seven days.

The second is encephalitis, though, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than 1 percent of people infected with WNV will experience this form of the disease.

Encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, begins with a sudden high fever and a headache, and then may progress to stiff neck, disorientation, tremors and coma. Severe infections can result in permanent brain damage or death. Most deaths occur in people over 50 years of age.

While there is no specific treatment

for WNV, if people think they have become infected, they should consult with their personal health care provider.

The following are simple preventive measures individuals can take to reduce the risk of mosquito bites:

- Wear white or light-colored long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, especially in the early mornings and evenings in areas where mosquitoes are most active.

Dark colors tend to attract mosquitoes.

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors. Be careful

applying repellent to children under 12 years old. For young children, only apply repellent that contains 10 percent or less DEET. Avoid spraying or applying DEET to their hands and mouth area.

- Avoid standing water in stagnant puddles, wetlands and ditches. Standing water provides an ideal breeding site for mosquitoes.

- Change the water in birdbaths,

children's pools and other containers of standing water at least every four-to-seven days.

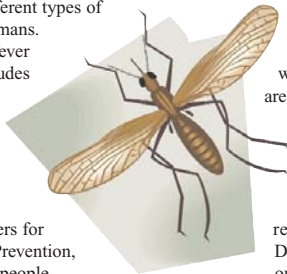
- Repair loose or torn door and window screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

- If a person notices standing pools of water on the installation, notify Pest Control at 526-5141.

- Report dead crows, jays, ravens, magpies and other birds to the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management Pest Control Facility at 526-0979 or 526-5141, or call the Fort Carson Wildlife Office at 576-8074 Mondays through Fridays between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., or call the Military Police at 526-2333 during nonduty hours, weekends and holidays.

Evans Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine Service and DECAM have installed several different types of equipment on Fort Carson to assist in mosquito surveillance and control.

Additional information about WNV is available on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment WNV website at www.fightthebitecolorado.com or by calling Environmental Health Services at 526-2939 or Veterinary Services at 526-3803.



American Red Cross remembers Hurricane Katrina

American Red Cross

One year ago Tuesday, the United States braced itself for Hurricane Katrina. What followed was unimaginable in size and scope. But communities across this nation joined the American Red Cross in rising to the challenge of feeding, sheltering and providing emotional support to millions of our neighbors on the Gulf Coast. Now, communities are coming together again to remember Hurricane Katrina, support the survivors and prepare for the future.

Local Red Cross chapters and their community partners were at the heart of the response to Hurricane Katrina, and the Pikes Peak Chapter was no different. Nationwide, the Red Cross served tens of millions of meals and snacks, shelters thousands of people, provided emergency assistance to more than 4 million people and mobilized nearly a quarter of a million Red Cross responders.

"Our chapter was pleased to contribute to the Katrina response by providing assistance for food, groceries, clothing, shelter and basic medical needs to 767 families (about 2,200 men, women and children) who evacuated to the Pikes Peak region. Many organizations in our community joined forces to provide help to our neighbors on the Gulf Coast," said David Just, president and chief executive officer of the Pikes Peak Chapter. "This anniversary gives us the opportunity to thank all of the Red Cross volunteers, partners and donors who gave their time and their financial

resources to help those who suffered because of this disaster."

But the need is still great and there is much work to be done. The Red Cross continues to help Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma survivors through its Hurricane Recovery Program. This program assists survivors with emotional support services; help in planning their recovery and by providing information and referral services.

The Red Cross is also preparing should an emergency happen here. It has improved its disaster relief systems to be better, bigger and faster. The Red Cross has more disaster relief supplies in more locations across the country. In the Pikes Peak community, the local chapter has been assigned an Emergency Response Vehicle and is working to expand and develop local partnership efforts.

"We are reaching out to our communities, business, academic, civic, technology, faith-based and government leaders to make sure that we are all prepared for disaster," Just said. "In fact, we have new partnerships in place with U.C.C.S. and the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment and are training more volunteers to help respond to disasters locally."

The Red Cross has also begun to stage human and material resources for the possible landfall of Tropical Storm Ernesto and will be ready to respond when needed. The American public can help the Red Cross prepare to meet the needs of those affected by disasters by contributing to the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund.

The Red Cross is also encouraging people to be their own first responders when emergencies happen. Individuals and families can take these simple steps to sustain themselves before, during, and after a disaster:

Get a kit:

Build a disaster supplies kit including water, non-perishable food, radio, flashlight and extra batteries for both, a first aid kit and necessary medications. Store important family documents (wills, passports, insurance policies and deeds.) in a portable, waterproof and fireproof container as part of your kit.

Prepare supplies for pets and family members with specific needs.

Make a plan:

Make evacuation and communication plans.

Plan ahead for the possibility of becoming separated from your family and friends by choosing an out-of-town contact that each family or household member can call or e-mail should a disaster occur.

Plan on using the Red Cross Safe and Well Web site which can be reached through www.redcross.org.

Be informed:

Talk to your family about the types of disasters that can happen in your community.

Follow the directions of emergency officials.

2006 FALL FEST

TRAVELING Medicine Show

TURKEY CREEK RANCH

23rd of September
10 a.m. til 4 p.m.

Illusionist
 Palm Reading
 Kids Crafts
 Pony Rides
 Music Show
 Magic Show

Hay Rides
 Juggling
 Target Shooting
 Traveling Human Circus
 Food & Beverages

For more information: 526-4494

FREE ADMISSION - nominal charge for some activities

WE ARE GOING TO BRECKENRIDGE FOR
Oktoberfest

Saturday, September 16th
8am - 8pm

Adults \$10, 12 and under, \$8

Event admission is **FREE** (cost covers transportation)
Bus leaves from ODR, for more information: 526-5366
www.gobreck.com

CRIPPLE CREEK
GETAWAY TRIP

September 23rd
\$10 adult, \$8 child
(adults 13 yrs. and older, children 12 yrs. and under)
Bus departs at 8am from ODR

For information: 526-5366

T 2006 Labor Day Weekend **CAMPER'S SPECIAL**

Looking for a unique adventure for the whole family this holiday?

Turkey Creek Ranch offers the perfect getaway that promises fun for the whole family. Join us for hiking, hay wagon rides, and star spangled nights. Stay a day or all weekend. Your best memories start here!

Check in Friday - Sunday by 5 p.m. to collect your camping permits from the mercantile. (Call ahead for expedited check-in)

Each day we'll pick you up for a wagon ride tour of the ranch; up to four ride tickets per family. (Additional ride tickets are available for \$5 ea.)

Up to four cowboy hats and bandanas are included for the kids; (Additional sets are available for \$4 each.)

Space is limited; reservations are recommended.

Dogs are welcome if kept on a leash at all times. Please bag and properly dispose of your dog's waste.

Tent camping for the holiday special is \$15 per tent, per night.

Recreational Vehicles (all trailers or self-contained campers) are \$20 per RV, per night.

Check out by 5 p.m. Monday

For more information, call 719-526-3905

Labor Day weekend starts

30th Balloon Classic

Story and photos by Nel Lampe

Mountaineer staff

Hot air balloon events are held all over the country, but one of the most picturesque events takes place in Colorado Springs. For 30 years the Colorado Springs Balloon Classic has been held in Memorial Park, with Pikes Peak in the background. It's a beautiful sight. There may be other events with more balloons — the Colorado Balloon Classic has about 100 — but there's none prettier.

The classic has been named one of the top 100 Events in the United States for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 by Event Media Network. The American Bus Association named the Balloon Classic as one of the top 100 events in North America for 2004 and 2006.

And here it is, in our neighborhood. All it takes is an early wake up and a drive to Memorial Park on East Pikes Peak Avenue — between Hancock and Union. Don't even stop for coffee because it'll be available in the park, along with food that'll stop the hunger pains quickly — brats, funnel cakes, breakfast pastries, breakfast burritos, biscuits and gravy, pizza, nachos and turkey legs.

The most difficult chore will be finding a parking place within walking distance of the park. Just be sure to arrive early enough — while it's still dark — so you can be in the midst of the action before dawn.

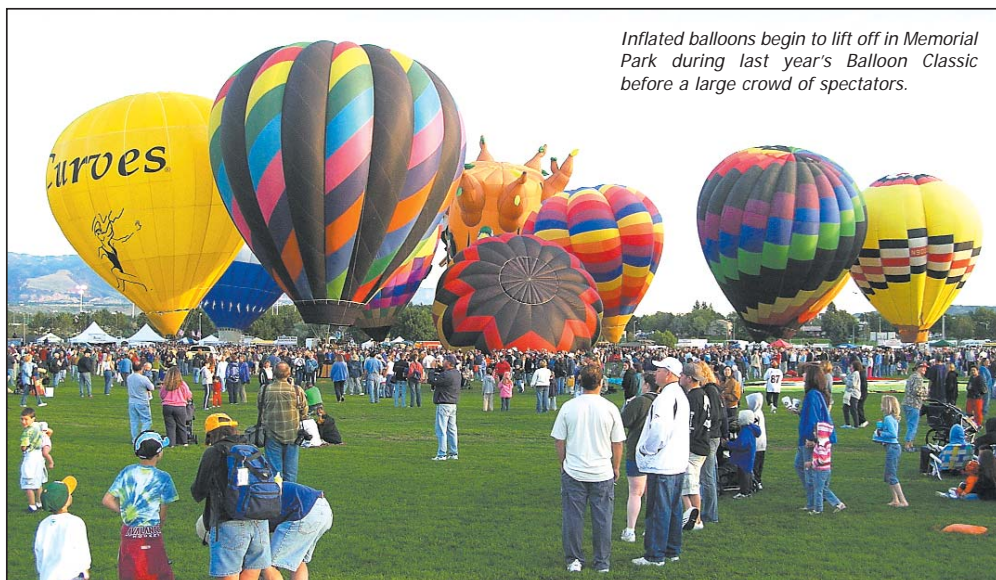
In the park, balloon crews are usually at work, unloading balloons from vans or trailers, spreading out colorful envelopes, attaching the baskets and setting up propane burners. Spectators gather around balloons, watching the process.

Burners are lit, flames reach into the

See **Balloon** on Page 30



One of the special shape balloons is ready to leave the ground during the 2005 Balloon Classic. In the top insert, a burner flame heats the air in the balloon. Bottom insert: a crew member checks the balloon's interior.



Inflated balloons begin to lift off in Memorial Park during last year's Balloon Classic before a large crowd of spectators.

Happening's



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Aug. 31, 2006

Balloon

From Page 29

throat of the balloon and the inflation process is under way. As the air heats, the balloon begins to inflate. When the envelope is fully inflated, the pilot readies the basket for liftoff, heats the air and the balloon is airborne.

Balloons are mostly in traditional shapes, much like a light bulb, but there are some balloons in special shapes, usually designed to resemble a company or advertising icon, such as the pink Energizer bunny or a moving truck. For the first time, the Alpo Airlift Hot Air Balloon will participate in the Colorado Balloon Classic. Shaped like a can of dog food, it's 68 feet tall and 45 feet in diameter, and if a real can, would hold 5 million cans of dog food. Traditional balloons are eight to 10 stories high, but special-shaped balloons can be many times larger and take much longer to inflate.

The balloons in the Colorado Balloon Classic usually liftoff in two waves. After the first wave of balloons is airborne, more balloons and crews move onto the vacated space, and the second set of balloon crews begin inflation.

Although some balloon events involve some kind of "race," as to speed or finding a marker, the Colorado Balloon Classic is just for fun.

Rain and high winds can cause delay of balloon liftoffs, so people keep their fingers crossed until the first wave lifts off about 7 a.m., followed about a half-hour later by the second wave.

Andean New Age Music Group will be performing from 6:30-10 a.m. each morning and again at the Balloon-Glo.

A concert by "One Way" is from 8-9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Sunday morning's mass ascension will be followed by a concert by the Colorado Springs Conservatory at 8-9:30 a.m.

The Colorado Balloon Classic has a children's area, where youngsters can enjoy wall

climbing, a bounce house and other activities.

Monday morning's launch will be followed by a concert presented by Doherty High School bands.

Souvenir programs are sold throughout the park. Vendors also sell T-shirts, collector's pins and other Balloon Classic souvenirs. Concession stands open to the public at 6 a.m. all three days of the fest, while the Colorado Springs Police Department Honor Guard and Police Cadets present the colors each morning.

After the balloons are up and the concert ends, people drift out of the park and get on with their day, sometimes encountering a balloon along the way that has landed in an open field.

Many spectators will return to the park in the evening Saturday and Sunday for the Balloon-Glo. Food vendors fire up their grills about 4 p.m. and balloon crews later fire up their propane burners. A concert begins at 5 p.m. and an evening Balloon-Glo is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. A Balloon-Glo involves tethered balloons, which are partially inflated and light up like Christmas tree bulbs when propane burners heat the air. The balloons never leave the ground. Thousands of balloon fans fill the park for the Balloon Glo. Saturday's concert is by "Kutandara" and Sunday's evening's concert is by "The Chordells."

Be sure to start early enough for the morning launch to find a parking place near the park.

You don't want to be looking for a parking space when the last balloon floats away.

A few nearby parking lots are set up as fund-raisers, charging a fee for spectator close-in parking.

Consider bringing a stroller for younger children and leave the pet at home. Pets aren't allowed at the balloon fest

and smoking is prohibited.

Balloon rides are available during the classic, for \$195 each; must be older than 13. Call 578-0935 or check at the Balloon Ride Concession Booth in Memorial Park.

Memorial Park is at the corner of Pikes Peak Avenue, between Union Boulevard and Hancock Avenue. Take Interstate 25 or Highway 115 to downtown Colorado Springs. Take I-25 Bijou Exit, go south one block and then east on Pikes Peak Avenue to reach the park — about 10 blocks.

There is no parking in the park except for handicapped. Spectators must park along neighborhood streets. There's no entrance fee to watch the balloons or entertainment. Bring money for food and souvenirs.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time:** about 20 minutes
- **For ages:** all
- **Type:** balloon festival
- **Fun factor:** ★★★★★ (Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage: free admission**
\$ = Less than \$20
\$\$ = \$21 to \$40
\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
\$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80
(Based on a family of four)



Vendors in Memorial Park during the Balloon Classic sell souvenirs and food.



The Balloon Glo draws a large crowd. Balloons are tethered to prevent liftoff and heated in unison for the glow effect.



An early morning crowd watches the sky fill with balloons during the 2005 Colorado Balloon Classic at Memorial Park. The Balloon Classic, in its 30th year, is in Memorial Park each Labor Day weekend.



With its crew riding in the basket, a balloon lifts off.

Get Out!

Living history presentation

The Pueblo Aircraft Museum, located on Pueblo Memorial Airport, hosts a living history presentation Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. to observe the 67th anniversary of the German invasion of Poland. The living history group will be wearing uniforms of the German army, Polish army and the Soviet army of that era. Weapons and equipment will be displayed. The museum is six miles east of Pueblo off Highway 50. Admission to the museum is \$6 for anyone older than 10. Military members are free with valid identification.

Colorado State Fair

The Colorado State Fair at the State Fairgrounds in Pueblo runs through Monday. The Colorado State Fair is one of the longest running fairs in the nation and includes a carnival, festive food and the usual array of animal and exhibits. Remaining concerts at the fair include Neal Sedaka, Big and Rich with Cowboy Troy, Los Lonely Boys and REO Speedwagon. Concert tickets range from \$12 to \$30; call 520-9090 or go online at www.Coloradostatefair.com.

Academy concerts

The Air Force Academy concert season

includes the Five Browns Sept. 22; "I Can't Stop Loving You," Oct. 13; The Lettermen's Christmas Show Dec. 1; Bill Engvall Feb. 10, "Wonderful Town" March 3 and Chip Davis and Mannheim Steamroller May 4. Contact the Academy box office at 333-4497 for information. Shows are in Arnold Hall Theater.

Rockies appreciate military Coors Field has military appreciation

days at Colorado Rockies games with the Washington Nationals Sept. 7-10. Call (303) ROCKIES to purchase \$6 tickets, identify yourself as an active military member or veteran and provide the reference number: 741532. There's a \$2.50 service charge and a credit card must be used. This offer is not available at Coors Field ticket windows. See the post Web site, www.carson.army.mil for more information.

Sky Sox hosts military Sundays

Sky Sox Baseball Club honors troops with military Sundays. All military and Department of Defense families get 50 percent off Sunday home game tickets at the box office. The next game is Sunday vs. Sacramento River Cats. Go to www.skysox.com for information. The stadium is near Powers Boulevard and Barnes Road.

Labor Day activities

The 30th annual Balloon Classic is in Memorial Park Saturday-Monday. The fest begins before dawn each morning as nearly 100

balloons are inflated and lift off from the park. There's also entertainment, food and activities and a Balloon Glo Saturday and Sunday evenings. No parking in Memorial Park — find a place on the streets surrounding Memorial Park. See the story on page 29.

The neighboring community of Fountain hosts a street fest Sunday-Monday. There's a barbecue supper and dance Sunday, beginning at 5 p.m., with live music from 7-10 p.m. Adults are \$5, children under 10 are \$3. Monday begins with a "Dollars for Scholars" pancake breakfast at Fountain Middle School, 515 N. Santa Fe from 7-9:30 a.m.; adults are \$5 and children under 10 are \$3. There's a parade at 10 a.m., followed by a crafts fair and entertainment from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in Metcalfe Park. There's a special children's games area.

Denver's best fest is Friday-Monday — A Taste of Denver. Admission is free and entertainment is a feature of the fest. Several stages are throughout the fest, and food vendors from lots of Denver restaurants will be on hand. The fest is in Denver's Civic Park. Hours are 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday and 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday.

Commonwheel Art Fest in Memorial Park in Manitou Springs is Saturday-Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For 32 years this fest has been a Labor Day staple, with art, entertainment, art activities and food. There's no entry fee.



Photo by Nel Lampe

Old fashioned Labor Day

Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site celebrates an old-fashioned Labor Day with an 1880s-style baseball game. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for teenagers and \$2 for children ages 5-12 — those under 5 are admitted free. Monday hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Hotdogs and ice cream will be sold.

Buster's Baghdad

by Maj. James D. Crabtree



SPORTS & LEISURE

Youth coaches prepare for fall season



Desmond Green, right, prepares to sign for equipment from the youth center Saturday during the coaches clinic.

Story and photo by
Walt Johnson

Mountaineer staff

Saturday at the post youth center, the fall sports season officially kicked off for the coaches of youth football, soccer and cheerleading as the center held its season-beginning coaches clinic.

Kristina Cannon, youth sports coordinator and other members of the youth center staff went over the rules of engagement for the season and answered questions the coaches had about the upcoming season that has all the promise of being one of the most exciting in years.

Cannon and the youth center staff have more than 60 coaches ready to train the young titans this year (the youth center is still looking for coaches for football and soccer). Judging by the eagerness and excitement of the coaches questions and their reactions as they talked about what the coming season can bring, this may be a banner fall sports season.

One of the coaches who is taking the step up to head coach for

the first time is Desmond Gerard Green, who will be following in his father's (Kenneth Green) footsteps this year. Green will coach the 10-12 year-old flag football team and he is excited to see what he can accomplish this year.

"I decided to coach this team because I don't have as much experience coaching the younger kids. I think it will be easier for me to teach the older kids," Green said.

"My biggest challenge is going to be getting involved with every aspect of the children on the team. When I coached with my father he was the head man and I got to do a lot of the behind the scenes stuff, but now I have to do it all," Green said.

Green said he is going to take the ethics he learned from his father and try to be the best coach he can.

"I want to make a name for myself with the children and the parents. I want the kids to have fun and learn the game, and I want the parents to believe their child received good coaching and that they would want their child to play for me again," Green said.

Mountaineer Youth Sports



Youth hoops

Youth center members participate in midnight basketball action during the monthly activity.

The youth center will host its next program Friday when it has midnight basketball activity for junior high and below aged players from 6-8 p.m. and for high school hoopsters from 9 p.m.-midnight.

Photo by Walt Johnson

On the Bench

Rockies plan huge event to honor military and veterans

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

The Colorado Rockies and Qwest will present Qwest Military Day at Coors Field Sept 28.

The Rockies will be hosting the Los Angeles Dodgers in a 1:05 p.m. game that will feature special pre-game festivities including a parade, flyover, national anthem, color guard and ceremonial first pitch — all performed by military members and veterans.

Additionally, commemorative dog tags will be handed out to the first 5,000 fans, compliments of "America Supports You."

According to the organizers, uniformed military personnel and veterans will be offered complimentary tickets and have the opportunity to participate in a pre-game parade.

Additional tickets are available for family and friends for \$6 each.

To order tickets, call Bobby Dicroce at (303) 312-2486. You can also fax an order by calling (303) 312-2219, e-mail orders to dicroceb@coloradorockies.com, or submit mail orders to CRBC, 2001 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80205, Attn: Bobby Dicroce.

All orders received by Sept. 15 will be mailed. For all late orders, tickets will be available for pickup only at the Coors Field Will Call windows on Blake Street between 20th and 21st streets. You will need a photo identification to pick up your tickets at the Coors Field Will Call window.

Members of the Minnesota Vikings cheerleader squad will be coming to the Mountain Post Sept. 8 for an autograph session and to have dinner with the troops.

The Vikings cheerleaders will be at the post exchange from 4-6 p.m. signing autographs and



Photo by Walt Johnson

Class in session

Justin Arnell, front, Carson Middle School head football coach, talks to members of the seventh and eighth grade teams as they practiced Saturday for the season opener today at Cañon City. The middle schoolers will open their home season Thursday when the team hosts Florence on post.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Army soccer

A United States Military Academy soccer player, front with ball, looks to make a move during action Friday at the Air Force Academy soccer field.

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then will have dinner with the troops at Wild Bill's Buffalo Wings on post from 6-7:30 p.m. The cheerleaders will also be visiting Peterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy during their visit to Colorado Springs.

The United States Military Academy soccer team paid a visit to the Air Force Academy Friday for a soccer game that turned out to be one of the most exciting games the team may play all year.

The West Point athletes opened the season against its sister service team and, even if the weather didn't fully cooperate, the game was worth getting wet and being uncomfortable to see.

Air Force scored its only goal of the game in the first 10 minutes to take a 1-0 lead. The goal was scored on an offensive play that saw the Air Force player shoot high and go over the top of the West Point goalie. The score stayed 1-0 until two seconds remained in the game when the West Point team scored the tying goal and denied the Air Force crowd, which was bracing for a run onto the field to celebrate a victory.

According to information from the Air Force Academy sports office, there will be some changes in the way to catch Air Force football this fall and Mountain West Conference sporting events in the future.

The Mountain West Conference will switch from televising its games on ESPN to the College Sports Television channel for all Air Force and MWC games. The games will be broadcast on CSTV and The Mountain, the first ever channel dedicated exclusively to a single collegiate athletic conference. In Colorado, both channels will be available on Adelphia

Mountaineer High School Sports

Trojan opener

A member of the Fountain-Fort Carson freshman team lays a hit on Mesa Ridge's quarterback during scrimmage action Friday at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. The Trojans will open its season Friday when it travels to Cañon City before hosting its home opener Sept. 7 when the Rampart Rams will visit the Trojans at 7 p.m.



Photo by Walt Johnson



4th Engineer Battalion's Lennox Morris, right, reaches to catch a pass he deflected from 360th and 2nd Transportation quarterback Dedrick Applewhite, left, during action Monday at the Mountain Post sports complex.

Post intramural flag football pre-season kicks off

Story and photo by Walt Johnson
Mountaineer staff

It would seem only fitting that the last time someone on post talked about the upcoming intramural football season it was 4th Engineers Battalion coach Rick Broaddus who said in early August that his team would win this year's championship.

Monday the post intramural flag football season got its exhibition season under way with Broaddus and his team facing the 360th and 2nd Transportation combined team in the first game of the season.

The first half of the game saw some exciting action as the engineers scored the first two touchdowns of the game and a two-point extra point, only to see the transportation team finish the half with 12 unanswered points.

During the Colorado State Games in early August, Broaddus said his team would be the team to beat because of its all-around team strengths. Nothing from the first half of the game would dispute Broaddus' team will be strong contenders this year for the intramural championship.

Equally impressive though, was the 360th and 2nd Transportation team led by Dedrick Applewhite, who is the team's quarterback and coach. After falling behind by 14 points, Applewhite used his speed and accurate

passing to get his team back into the game. At halftime he said the early deficit was not a problem for his team that stresses playing together as its key to victory.

"We got a chance to look over their defense and made some adjustments that helped us score the 12 points before halftime. We are out here working on some things because we think in the end our ability to work together is going to be enough to get us to the finals," Applewhite said.

A team that has done a little bit of winning itself in the past couple of years, the 1st Mobilization team also has its sights set on a good season.

Nate Sonnier, head coach and team leader, said the atmosphere on post right now is full of excitement for all teams, as it should be, but his team is ready to be right in the middle of things again.

"Our record speaks for itself. We came in third place last year with a team that is returning eight starters on offense. It's good that everyone comes out with a winner's attitude and that will make for a good season. I think we are primed to win this year with the athletic Soldiers we have," Sonnier said.

Sonnier's teammate, David Wissinger, went one step further when he said, "third last year, first this year."

Let the games begin.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Ready for rugby

Members of the Colorado Springs Rugby team, which features members of the Mountain Post and Air Force Academy, prepare to pass the ball during action Saturday at Bear Creek Park in Colorado Springs. The rugby team plays teams from Denver and surrounding areas. Check the next issue of the Mountaineer for a schedule of games for the team.

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(soon to be Comcast) cable.

If you are a Dish Network and/or DirecTV subscriber, it is suggested that you call your satellite provider and tell them you want CSTV and The Mountain on the lowest tier possible.

The Colorado Rockies are celebrating their last military appreciation day at Coors Field Sept. 7-9 when the team hosts the Washington Nationals.

The Rockies are offering discount tickets in the outfield box, pavilion or upper reserved infield seating area for \$6 per ticket. In order to get the tickets, call (303) 762-5437 and say you are calling for the military appreciation days tickets.

These tickets will not be available at the stadium ticket windows. You must state that you are an active member of the United States military or a military veteran and provide reference number 741532.

The post women's basketball team is practicing and looking for players for the upcoming season.

Any active duty women interested in playing for the post team should come to

practice sessions each Monday and Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Special Events Center. Coach Stephanie Timmons said this will be one of the most exciting years for the post team with a lot of high-level games against some of the region's best teams. For more information on the varsity women's program call Bill Reed at 524-1163.

The post running team is looking for runners to help form this year's squad.

The team trains year-round in order to compete in local and national races. Any runner interested in being a part of the team should show up at the center at 6 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Special Events Center.

The team is looking for runners in the open men's, open women's, master's and open mixed team categories. For more information on the post running team contact Martin Wennblom at 330-0554 or Bill Reed at 524-1163.

The youth center is currently in need of some coaches for the fall season. If you would like to coach soccer or football contact Kristina Cannon at 526-1233 for more information.

Mountaineer Athlete of the Week



Kristina Cannon

Sports position: Youth sports coordinator

What got you started in sports?

I started out doing gymnastics when I was 5 years old because I had seen it on television and I liked it. I liked it because it was such an independent sport and it was something I did well. After I turned 12, I got into soccer and volleyball and excelled in both those sports.

What is your proudest personal moment in sports?

In 1999, I was the player of the year for the state of Colorado in volleyball. I also got a scholarship to Colorado State University-Pueblo. I played on the soccer and lacrosse teams in college. I was proud of the volleyball achievement because I had set my sights on being player of the year and achieved that goal.

What is your favorite moment in pro sports and why?

Seeing two people make it to the top. One person I played volleyball with, Brittany Hochaver, made the Olympic team and a guy I went to school with, Dexter Wynn, who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, is one of my closest friends in life.

